

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1.-13. (cancelled)

14. (previously presented) A method of sterilizing a balloon of a balloon catheter, comprising

a) providing a balloon catheter having a balloon with a first rupture pressure; and

b) applying an electron beam to the balloon catheter in an evacuated or inert gas-filled container, so that the electron-beamed balloon has a second rupture pressure equal to or less than the first rupture pressure, the second rupture pressure being not more than about 15% to about 25% less than the first rupture pressure.

15. (original) The method of claim 14 including purging the container with the balloon catheter therein by evacuating the container and filling the evacuated container with inert gas, and sealing the purged container with the balloon catheter therein, before the electron beam is applied.

16. (original) The method of claim 15 including purging the balloon catheter by evacuating the balloon catheter and filling with inert gas, before the container sealed.

17. (original) The method of claim 16 wherein the balloon catheter is purged before being placed in the container and before the container is purged.

18. (original) The method of claim 16 wherein the container is purged inside an evacuated or inert gas-filled chamber.

19. (original) The method of claim 16 wherein the purged container is sealed inside the evacuated or inert gas-filled chamber.

20. (original) The method of claim 15 including mounting a stent on an outer surface of the balloon before the electron beam is applied, and the electron beam is applied to the outer surface of the balloon so that the stent reduces penetration of the electron beam into sections of the balloon located directly underneath the stent.

21.-26. (cancelled)

27.-32. (cancel)

33.-34. (cancelled)

35.-38. (cancel)